

Message Text

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ORIGIN NODS-00

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /001 R

DRAFTED BY AF/S: JDAVIDOW:GFH
APPROVED BY AF: WILLIAM HARROP
S/S-O :RCASTRODALE
AF/S: GMOOSE

-----040161 150832Z /10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG NIACT IMMEDIATE
USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 179223 TOSEC 080104

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E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: OVIP, RH, UK (SECRETARY VANCE)

SUBJECT: RHODESIA

1. FOLLOWING SUMMARIZES MOST RECENT RHODESIAN DEVELOP-
MENTS :

-- WE HAVE RECEIVED THE FOLLOWING RESPONSES TO SMITH'S
SUGGESTION OF A SECRET MEETING OF THE PRINCIPALS,
WHICH GRAHAM-LOW AGREED TO CARRY TO THE OTHER PARTIES.
-- NKOMO INITIALLY SAID THAT HE WOULD BE PREPARED TO
ATTEND SUCH A MEETING, BUT ASKED THAT GRAHAM-LOW RAISE
THE IDEA WITH MUGABE.
-- SITHOLE WAS NONCOMMITTAL. CHIKEREMA, SPEAKING FOR
MUZOREWA, WAS PREDICTABLY NEGATIVE.
-- MUGABE INSISTED THAT THE MEETING, IF HELD, BE UNDER
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UK-US AUSPICES, BUT AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO ATTEND,
PENDING FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH NKOMO.
-- MACHEL WAS ENTHUSIASTICALLY IN FAVOR OF THE IDEA.
-- HOWEVER, UPON THEIR RETURN TO LUSAKA, GRAHAM -LOW
FOUND NKOMO LESS FAVORABLY INCLINED. NKOMO SAID HE
WANTED MORE TIME TO PREPARE TO ENSURE THAT THE MEETING

WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL, AND ASKED US NOT TO PURSUE THE IDEA FURTHER UNTIL HE HAD TIME TO TALK WITH MUGABE, PRESUMABLY AT THE OAU MEETING.

-- KAUNDA RESPONDED FAVORABLY, STATING THAT FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS SHOULD BE IN ATTENDANCE OR NEARBY TO INFLUENCE EVENTS.

-- NYERERE WAS INITIALLY NEGATIVE, BUT CAME AROUND TO ACKNOWLEDGING MEETING WAS WORTH A TRY IF THERE WAS REASONABLE CHANCE OF MOVING SMITH CLOSER TO THE AAP.

-- GRAHAM AND LOW HAVE RETURNED TO RHODESIA FOR CONVERSATIONS WITH SMITH AND HIS REPRESENTATIVES IN AN EFFORT TO DETERMINE WHETHER SMITH MAY INDEED BE WILLING TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE MARCH 3 SALISBURY AGREEMENT.

WE HAVE NOT YET HAD DETAILED DISCUSSIONS WITH THE PARTIES ON WHAT WOULD BE DISCUSSED AT AN UNPUBLICIZED MEETING OF THE PRINCIPALS. NKOMO OBVIOUSLY VIEWS SUCH A MEETING AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO WIN ACCEPTANCE OF HIS PROPOSAL FOR A "GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY" OVER WHICH HE WOULD EXPECT TO PRESIDE. NKOMO'S EMPHASIS ON THE NEED FOR A SUCCESSFUL MEETING, WHILE SERVING HIS OWN TACTICAL DESIGNS, IS WELL-TAKEN. FAILURE TO SET THE STAGE PROPERLY WOULD, IN OUR VIEW, ALLOW SMITH TO MAKE THE PLAUSIBLE ARGUEMENT THAT HE HAD WALKED THE LAST MILE AND BEEN MET ONCE AGAIN WITH PF OBDURATENESS.

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2. OTHER RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS:

-- WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT BISHOP MUZOREWA INTENDS TO ARRIVE IN THE U.S. THIS WEEKEND ON A TRIP ENCOURAGED BY SENATOR HELMS TO HELP LOBBY FOR HELMS' AMENDMENT TO THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE BILL, WHICH WOULD, IN EFFECT, REINSTITUTE THE BYRD AMENDMENT.

-- CURRENT ESTIMATE IS THAT BILL WILL NOT BE CONSIDERED? BEFORE THURSDAY. HELMS PLANS TO PROPOSE HIS AMENDMENT ATTHATTIME, AND WE ARE ACTIVELY ENGAGED IN LOBBYING AGAINST IT.

-- WE GRANTED MUZOREWA AND HIS SMALL PARTY VISAS TO ENTER, THOUGH WE ARE AWARE THAT IT MAY SET STAGE FOR, AND COMPLICATE OUR RESPONSE TO, VISA REQUESTS FOR OTHER MEMBERS OF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL, PARTICULARLY CHIRAU, WHOM WE HAVE PREVIOUSLY REFUSED.

-- IN FACT, CONSERVATIVE CHICAGO CHURCH GROUP IS CLAIMING THAT SMITH ACCEPTED ITS INVITATION TO ATTEND A MEETING THERE ON JULY 29.

3. INITIAL REPORTS FROM KHARTOUM OAU COUNCIL OF

MINISTERS MEETING INDICATE APPROVAL OF RESOLUTION WHICH MAINTAINS SUPPORT FOR ALL PARTIES MEETING AND POSSIBLE POLITICAL SOLUTION. OAU SPOKESMAN CAREFULLY TOLD THE PRESS THAT WHILE OAU RECOGNIZES PF AS ONLY LIBERATION MOVEMENT OF ZIMBABWE, IT IS NOT CONSIDERED TO BE THE SOLE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ZIMBABWEAN PEOPLE.

4. ON A PERSONAL NOTE, YOU MAY NOT BE AWARE THAT STEVE LOW'S NEPHEW DIED IN THE TRAGIC AUTOMOBILE ACCIDENT WHICH ALSO TOOK THE LIFE OF JOHN D. ROCKEFELLER. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLITICAL SETTLEMENT, TOSEC, POLITICAL SUMMARIES, SECRET MEETINGS, MINISTERIAL VISITS, CAT-B
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 15 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE179223
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: JDAVIDOW:GFH
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: P840104-1959
Format: TEL
From: STATE AF
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780756/aaaabuxi.tel
Line Count: 126
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 53cb0773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN NODS
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: NODIS
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 05 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1995365
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: RHODESIA
TAGS: OVIP, PEPR, RH, ZI, UK, US, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: LUXEMBOURG SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/53cb0773-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014